

2 SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS FROM CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED WEEKLY BY THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The Republican Troubles.

From the N. Y. Nation. It is now, we believe, pretty generally agreed that Pennsylvania has been lost to the Republican party for the same reason as California was, and that many people fear New York will be lost—the corruption of the Republican politicians and the inferiority in point of character and standing of the Republican candidates.

We feel bound to say, however, that this is, under the circumstances, but very imperfect consolation. The Republican party has the greatest work to do, and has had to do for the last seven years, which has ever fallen to the lot of a political party, and it is necessary to the successful performance of the work that it should not be interrupted.

But no party can hope to retain power any longer than the Republican party has retained it, or long enough for the proper execution of any such work as the latter has in hand, unless it can manage to keep pure and to confine its attention to one object.

Even the Philadelphia Convention could not say they were hard: what it did say was that it was humiliating for the South to have to accept any terms at all. The present plan was not resolved upon till after the South had had a year for consideration, and it contains nothing but negro suffrage to make it objectionable to any Northerner who supported the war.

But, as we pointed out when discussing the subject last spring, nominating conventions cannot be got to do better in this way. The plan has been tried for years and has utterly failed.

The managers are always willing to let you preach till the crack of doom provided you keep your place in the ranks and vote the regular ticket on election day, and they can always provide you with a dozen fine reasons for your doing so—and so long as you do so, there is absolutely no chance of any improvement in the nominating conventions.

This may sound very wild doctrine to practical politicians, but we maintain that it is the only way to get better results. The only thing that will incline the leaders to better ways is the fear that if they do not nominate good men, and keep out of jobbing, their labors will be thrown away, and their nominees defeated at the polls.

ing into action is slower still. It took the anti-slavery party nearly twenty years of agitation and dozens of elections and four years of bloody war to get the Government of the country into their hands; it will take the Republican party, in our opinion, eight or ten years more of power to carry out their policy to its legitimate result, and settle society on the South upon a sure and lasting foundation; and we hold it to be of the highest importance to the country that they should succeed in retaining it for this period.

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an instrument which had no validity whatever, to remain in a condition of servitude. None of the provisions in an ordinary apprenticeship indenture applicable to minors generally appear in the agreement. The apprentice was simply held bound, under a covenant, to which her mother on the one side, and her former owner on the other, were parties, to do menial work for a term of years.

Perhaps it was the sort of work the girl—considering her former condition—was best fitted for. But that in no way affected the rights of the case; and Judge Chase, in deciding that the indenture was invalid, only gave judicial expression to the sentiment of the community where the case was tried.

Judge Chase, while regretting that the question was not submitted to argument, holds that the first clause of the thirteenth amendment of the Constitution of the United States interdicts slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, and establishes freedom as the constitutional right of all persons in the United States, and that the alleged apprenticeship in the present case is involuntary servitude within the meaning of these words in the amendment.

There can be no question as to the fairness and justness of this decision as affects the condition of colored apprentices, indentured under the conditions related. We all rejoice to hear that the Maryland girl is released from her indenture, and that she is free to go where she pleases. It is a relief to us all that there is such a repugnance to apprenticeship among the growing community.

The Education of the South. From the N. Y. Tribune. We have said a good deal from time to time about the ignorance of the South, and the necessity of education there.

We have said a good deal from time to time about the ignorance of the South, and the necessity of education there. But there is one word more to be spoken on the direction that education should take at the South, the class of people it should mainly bear upon, and the ends it should aim at compassing.

The Consequences of Negro Ascendancy. From the N. Y. Herald. We begin to realize the evils in this country which all other countries have experienced where the colored or inferior race have acquired power.

banished. Many an editor and publisher and bookseller has been arrested, imprisoned, and beaten with whips for having instructive literature in his possession which was generally repugnant to the prejudices of the masses. These precautions were taken against popular intelligence without regard to color or race.

They took unlawful possession of. Some three hundred of them were armed for resistance, and one of them, in a speech to the Government agents, said they did not care a fig whether the President had pardoned the owner of the estate or not; that the reconstruction acts of Congress did not recognize pardons by the President; that this property was theirs now, and that they were determined to hold on to it in defiance of all opposition.

Such is only a specimen of the harangues and conversations of the negroes in this and other parts of the South. These ignorant and deluded people have been excited to the point of resistance and insurrection by the teachings of radical emissaries in the South.

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